

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated. Applicants' representative thanks Examiner Suryawanshi for the indication of allowable matter.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The information disclosure statement filed April 11, 2004 fully complies with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2). Copies of all 27 references cited were included with the IDS (see the copy of the attached postcard marked Exhibit A). Of the ten "other documents", six have issued as Patents and are listed in the patent section of the attached 1449. No copies of the U.S. Patents are believed to be needed. The four additional references are included in the "other documents" section of the attached 1449 and copies are attached. Since the original IDS was compliant with 37 CFR 198(a)(2), no fee is believed to be due.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Slate in view of Furumochi has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

Paragraph 12 of the Office Action states that claims 3, 5, 6 and 18 are objected to as being dependent on rejected independent base claims. This is consistent with Box 7 of the

summary page that also indicates claims 3, 5, 6 and 18 are objected to. In contrast, paragraph 5 of the Office Action indicates that claims 1-18 are rejected. However, no detailed rejection has been presented for claims 3, 5, 6 and 18. Paragraph 5 appears to be a typographical error.

Therefore, the allowable matter of claim 3 has been incorporated into claim 1. The allowable matter of claim 5 has been incorporated into newly presented claim 19. The allowable matter of claim 18 has been incorporated into claim 17. Matter similar to the allowable matter of claim 18 has been incorporated into claim 16.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

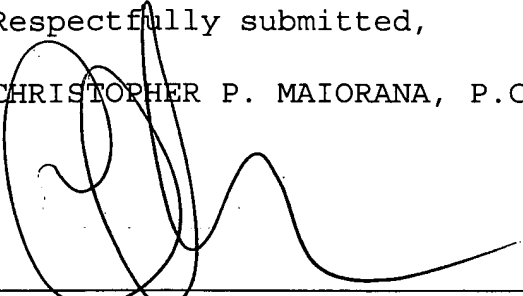
The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge our office

Account No. 50-0541.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER P. MAIORANA, P.C.



Christopher P. Maiorana
Registration No. 42,829
24840 Harper Avenue, Suite 100
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
(586) 498-0670

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